

R E M A R K S

This is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed September 28, 2007 ("Office Action").

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-16 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn toward a non-elected invention.

Election/Restriction

Applicants confirm the election of the invention of Group II, claims 17-30, without traverse. Claims 1-16 have been withdrawn as they are directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed toward the non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17, 20, 21, and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens (US 2002/0155329) in view of Monzyk et al. (US 6,503,298).

First, Stevens is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) because the claimed invention and Stevens were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time the claimed invention was made. Specifically, *at the time the invention of U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 was made, U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155329 were owned by Texaco, Inc. or were subject to an obligation of assignment to Texaco, Inc.*

Monzyk is relied upon by the Examiner for teaching a method of purifying hydrogen for a fuel cell. Office Action, p. 5. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the hydrogen purification process of Monzyk to the hydrogen generation

process of Stevens in order to provide high purity hydrogen in an efficient way for uses such as in fuel cells. Office Action, pp. 6-7.

Based on the above, claims 17, 20, 21, and 23-30 are not believed to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stevens in view of Monzyk. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens (US 2002/0155329) in view of Monzyk et al. (US 6,503,298), as applied to claim 17, and further in view of Golben (US 5,250,368).

As discussed above, Stevens is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) because the claimed invention and Stevens were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time the claimed invention was made. Specifically, *at the time the invention of U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 was made, U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155329 were owned by Texaco, Inc. or were subject to an obligation of assignment to Texaco, Inc.*

As a result, claim 18 is not believed to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stevens in view of Monzyk and further in view of Golben. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens (US 2002/0155329) in view of Monzyk et al. (US 6,503,298), as applied to claim 17, and further evidenced by Heung (US 5,958,098).

As discussed above, Stevens is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) because the claimed invention and Stevens were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time the claimed invention was made. Specifically, *at the time the invention of U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 was made, U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155329 were owned by Texaco, Inc. or were subject to an obligation of assignment to Texaco, Inc.*

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As a result, claim 19 is not believed to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stevens in view of Monzyk and further evidenced by Heung. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens (US 2002/0155329) in view of Monzyk et al. (US 6,503,298), as applied to claim 17, and further evidenced by Schiodt et al. (US 2001/0055560).

As discussed above, Stevens is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) because the claimed invention and Stevens were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time the claimed invention was made. Specifically, *at the time the invention of U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 was made, U.S.S.N. 10/827,187 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155329 were owned by Texaco, Inc. or were subject to an obligation of assignment to Texaco, Inc.*

As a result, claim 22 is not believed to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stevens in view of Monzyk and further evidenced by Schiodt. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

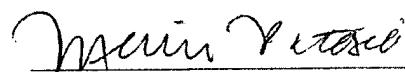
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All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection are believed to have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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